Appointment of agents for change of soiled currency

1721. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some agents have been appointed in Delhi and Himachal Pradesh to deal with change of soiled/torn currency notes;

(b) if so, what are their names and location, State-wise together with charges fixed for each service;

(c) whether RBI, New Delhi is issuing new currency notes and coins of Rs. 1, 2 and 5 denominations to general public on demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with formalities required in each case and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only the State Bank of India (SBI) and its associate banks and other public sector banks having currency chests have been authorized to exchange soiled and mutilated notes for which no fee is charged.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. New coins of denominations of Re. 1/- Rs. 2/- and Rs. 5/- are issued freely by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), New Delhi and during the period April 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001, 302 million pieces of these coins were issued. However, new notes of Re. 1/- and Rs. 2/- are no longer issued. New notes of Rs. 5 are issued by the RBI New Delhi with some restrictions since their supply has been resumed only very recently. During the period April 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001, 21 million pieces of new Rs. 5 notes were issued by RBI, New Delhi.